

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Glenn Eaton, Executive Director
RE: Draft Amendment to the Montachusett Metropolitan
Planning Organization (MPO) Public Participation Plan
DATE: June 19, 2015



Federal regulations require metropolitan planning areas to have a Continuing, Comprehensive, and Coordinated ("3C") transportation planning process that results in plans and programs that consider all transportation modes, supports metropolitan community development and social goals and that establish a "proactive public involvement process the provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and supports early and continuing involvement." Based upon these requirements, a Public Participation Plan (PPP) was developed for and endorsed by the Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in June 2007 and Amended in April 2010. This PPP outlines the process for public involvement in the development of Regional Transportation Plans (RTP), Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP), Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWP) and long range plans.

Provisions within the PPP establish a forty-five (45) day public comment period for amendments to the PPP. As a result of recent review by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) additional wording/revision/clarification to the PPP is required. The Montachusett MPO seeks to amend the current PPP to allow for this correction.

In accordance with federal regulations, this memo serves as notice of the commencement of a 45 day public review and comment period for an Amendment to the Montachusett MPO Public Participation Plan. The 45 day public review and comment period will commence on Saturday August 1, 2015 and close at the end of business on Monday September 14, 2015. Copies of the full PPP and the Draft Amendment can be obtained at the offices of the MRPC located at the MART Garage & Maintenance Facility, 1427R Water Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420 between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday to Friday. Copies are also available online at the MRPC website, www.mrpc.org, in Adobe Acrobat format.

Any interested party should review the draft document and make any comments that they deem appropriate. Written or verbal comments will be accepted until Monday September 14, 2015 and should be addressed: PPP Amendment Comments, MRPC, 1427R Water Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420. Comments can also be sent via email to: mrpc@mrpc.org. Please specify PPP Amendment in the subject line.

Comments may also be made at the regularly scheduled meeting of the full Commission on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 7:00 PM. All meetings are open to the public and are held at the MRPC Offices. This meeting will serve as the public meeting for the review of this document.

Comments received will be reviewed and incorporated into a Final Amendment to the PPP and will be forwarded for endorsement to the MPO at a meeting to be held on Wednesday September 16, 2015 at 1:00 PM at MRPC Offices.